

'THANKS BUT NO THANKS, MR. PRESIDENT'

By Congressman Jerry Moran

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As Americans make their holiday wish lists this season, one item stands alone at the top-jobs. With one in ten Americans currently without work and the highest unemployment in a quarter century, the President should be focused on job and economic growth. Yet, the President is pursuing an environmental strategy that reduces the hope for an economic recovery.

The President's latest attempt to achieve his goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at any cost occurred this week at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. The President's aim was to develop a successor to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which sought to reduce worldwide greenhouse gas emissions but failed to do so. Had the Senate ratified the Kyoto Protocol, one thing is certain: the economy would have suffered. An Energy Information Administration study done during the time Kyoto was negotiated projected it would have cost the U.S. between \$100 and \$397 billion a year.

But it is not only an international treaty at Copenhagen that Americans have to worry about. Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency ruled that carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases are a danger to public health and welfare. This decision means the EPA can

impose greenhouse gas regulation without congressional action. The announcement coincided with the opening of negotiations in Copenhagen and was meant to show the international community that the U.S. was committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions-even by bureaucratic regulation. This threat is no reason to agree to a harmful international treaty or to pass cap and trade as some have argued. To the contrary, the President should refrain from entering into international agreements and the EPA must be stopped from making decisions that circumvent Congress and are not supported by current law.

At the same time, the President continues to seek cap and trade legislation from Congress. The cap and trade bill approved by the House of Representatives in June remains one of the most damaging pieces of legislation passed by the House during my time in Congress. One study of the House-passed cap and trade bill by the Heritage Foundation showed that the legislation would result in annual GDP losses of almost \$400 billion and would lead to the elimination of one million jobs. The bill would increase the cost of doing business in the U.S., force small business owners to close their doors and cause companies to leave the country for nations where costs are less. At a time when so many Americans are without work, this is the last thing our country needs.

The President's holiday wish list is clear: reduce greenhouse gas emissions at any cost. An international treaty, EPA regulations or a cap and trade bill would be devastating to our economy. Those are Christmas gifts no American wants, Mr. President.

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